

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee**  
**September 18, 2003**  
**NWIFC Conference Center**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Butts, Sally	USFWS
Clark, Jeffrey	Weyerhaeuser
Fransen, Brian	Weyerhaeuser
Hunter, Mark	WDFW
Jackson, Terry	WDFW
Johnson, Ron	DNR Contracts Manager
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fibre
Martin, Doug	Martin Environmental – CMER Co-Chair
McConnell, Steve	NWIFC
McNaughton, Geoff	AMPA
Mendoza, Chris	ARC Environmental Consultants
Palmquist, Bob	NWIFC
Pavel, Joseph	NWIFC
Peterson, Pete	UCUT
Pleus, Allen	NWIFC
Price, Dave	WDFW
Quinn, Tim	WDFW – CMER Co-Chair
Robinson, Tom	DNR, WSAC
Rowe, Blake	Longview Fibre
Rowton, Heather	WFPA
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC
Smitch, Curt	Thompson Consulting

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**Minutes:** July minutes will be approved at the October CMER meeting.

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Decisions and Tasks from the July CMER meeting were reviewed.

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**Summary of Decisions and Tasks – September meeting**

<b>Decision/Task</b>	<b>Section of Minutes</b>
▪ A CMER website will be online by the end of September. When it becomes available a link will be sent to CMER participants with a request for review of the content on the site.	CMER website
▪ Responses to SRC review will be documented as follows: 1) the review will come back to the SAG 2) The SAG will draft a response to the review for CMER	SRC Review

<p>3) CMER will discuss and agree to the content of the responses</p> <p>4) The response to SRC review will be forwarded to the SRC</p> <p>5) If there are disputes between CMER and the SRC, further discussion will occur.</p> <p>6) This process will be documented as part of the record of the study file and will be housed at DNR.</p>	
<p>▪ McNaughton, Butts, Robinson and Rowton will work with FFR Policy to craft a budget sheet that meets the needs of various reviewers.</p>	Budget Update
<p><b>Review Schedule – CMER Products</b></p> <p><u>Last Fish</u>  To CMER: 10/1/03  Review for fatal flaws only  Comments to Fransen: 10/9/03  SRC review: CMER Approval request on 10/16/03</p> <p><u>DFC Report</u>  To CMER: 9/03  Comments to McConnell: 10/2/03  SRC Review: CMER Approval request on 10/16/03</p> <p><u>PIP Report</u>  NP working group to consider additional data submitted by tribes and craft a recommendation for CMER consideration on 10/16/03  Discussion of the Report and next steps scheduled for 10/16/03</p> <p><u>Bull Trout</u>  Two bull trout reports: 1) Development of Bull Trout Sampling Efficiency Models and 2) Analysis of Movement Patterns of Stream-dwelling Salmonids in Response to Three Survey Methods papers are being forwarded to CMER for Review  Comments due to Butts/Jackson: 10/2/03  CMER Review for fatal flaws only  If no substantive concerns identified, the report will be forwarded for SRC Review on 10/2/03. If substantive concerns identified, CMER will consider at 10/16/03 meeting</p>	SAG Issues

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**SAG Requests:** There were no SAG requests to consider.

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**CMER Website:** The CMER website will be up and running next week. The page is a standard DNR web page. Jeff Scheiber designed the page fitting the standard format which includes a section for CMER minutes, SAGs, CMER publications, along with other sections. Scheiber has provided a link to the CMER publications on the NWIFC

site. Minutes from previous meetings are also available on the site. This website is a work in progress and will be improved over time. CMER members are asked to comment on the website content and design. An e-mail will be distributed when the website becomes available. This item will be discussed at the October meeting. At this time, CMER recommends that draft documents not be posted on the website.

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**SRC Update:** McNaughton distributed a document reflecting projects that are soon going to be entering SRC review. This document is provided to the SRC on a regular basis so they can prepare for distributions. For a copy of the document, please contact Geoff McNaughton at [Geoffrey.mcnaughton@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Geoffrey.mcnaughton@dnr.wa.gov). Participants suggested that McNaughton not provide firm dates to the SRC and that instead, McNaughton will work closely with the SRC to ensure that they have adequate time to solicit reviewers and still meet the 8-week timeline pursuant to contract requirements.

Participants also discussed how to respond to peer reviews. The WETSAG review was slightly off the mark and we CMER will need to address the comments. SRC opinions are not binding, but comments must be addressed. To close the loop, CMER needs to address SRC comments and document a plan of action (e.g., revise the report per comments or explain why certain changes are not made) Pending the plan of action, the document may or may not go back to the SRC for review. Final documents containing comments from the SRC and the CMER record of addressing them will become part of the study file maintained at DNR.

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#### **Update from 8/7/03 Policy and 8/13/03 FPB meeting:**

The following recommendations were made by FFR policy and approved by the FPB:

- Type N Buffer Characteristics Integrity and Function Project \$125,000
- RMZ Resample Project: \$185,000
- Sensitive Site Identification: \$35,000

CMER staff cost of living allowances were also approved.

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**Budget Review:** McNaughton distributed several documents reflecting the budget and projects that are under contract. Contact McNaughton for copies. LWAG will discuss the \$12,000 in project development funds allocated to Sallabanks and it may be reallocated. Two budget requests that McNaughton will bring forward are 1) approval for a discretionary funds to buy aerial photographs as-needed and 2) funds to purchase an ortho-photograph of the state.

CMER participants suggested that in-kind contributions need to be tracked in the budget sheet as well (both directly through CMER and at the SAG level through contracts). Compliance monitoring efforts also need to be tracked. Concern was also raised that Bull

trout dollars are not tracked on this sheet. Discussions with FFR Policy should be initiated to discuss what the budget should reflect (i.e. the DNR pass through dollars, the bull trout funds, in-kind contributions and should include a roll-up at the bottom). McNaughton, Quinn, Rowton, Butts and Robinson will work together with FFR policy to develop a budget meeting that will meet the needs of reviewers.

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**Compliance Monitoring Update:** Compliance monitoring protocol development is underway. None of the \$60,000 has been spent. Marcus Johns is now leading this effort for the FP division. Specific lists to work with are important. If there are inherent assumptions in effectiveness monitoring; then these should be forwarded if they can be addressed with compliance monitoring. All SAGs need to work on these linkages. CMER co-chairs will meet with the co-chairs of FFR Policy to discuss this.

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#### **SAG Issues:**

- RSAG currently has no co-chair and is still seeking a representative.
- WETSAG did not meet last month and no co-chair has yet been identified. WETSAG received substantive comments from SRC and CMER on the Wetlands Literature Synthesis. They anticipate having a report at the October CMER meeting.
- Last Fish Report Review Schedule: ISAG is working to complete the report. The report will be posted on a website. ISAG is working against a tight timeline on this and desires a decision in time to use the March 2004 field season. Therefore, CMER review will be requested to occur within two weeks of receiving the report. They hope to post it on October 1, 2003. Comments will be addressed to Fransen. The key question will be whether the report is ready for SRC review – are there fatal flaws. This report will also be discussed at the October CMER meeting. Comments are due to Brian Fransen on October 9<sup>th</sup>. CMER approval to forward to SRC will be requested on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- RSAG requested that the DFC Report be forwarded for SRC review. After much discussion, the following consensus was reached  
**Consensus:** CMER will review the document over the next two weeks. Comments are due to Steve McConnell on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. RSAG will review and compile comments and will distribute to CMER in preparation for a decision to send to SRC following the October 16<sup>th</sup> CMER meeting.
- PIP Report Schedule: The PIP report was e-mailed one week ago. The report has been thoroughly revised. The content is the same as what went out in May. They are not transmitting to CMER for review. Additional data for the eastside has been submitted by the Tribes. The NP working group will review this data and come forward with a recommendation to CMER about how to use this data. Discussion of the report and next steps is scheduled for the October 16<sup>th</sup> CMER meeting. Comments are due to Bob Palmquist on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. These comments will be collated and sent to CMER for review prior to the October CMER meeting.
- BTSAG: CMER members will review both the Development of Bull Trout Sampling Efficiency Models and the Analysis of Movement Patterns of Stream-dwelling

Salmonids in Response to Three Survey Methods papers, instead of concurrent CMER/SRC review as proposed. The CMER Review should focus on fatal flaws. If no fatal flaw comments are received by BTSAG by October 2, 2003, the papers will be forwarded to SRC. If substantive comments are received, CMER will address them at the October 16, 2003 meeting before submission to the SRC.

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**Experimental Treatments:** This issue is almost ready to go before the FPB. The policy co-chairs will be approached with how best to ensure that this issue is on the agenda for consideration at the November 12 FPB meeting. Studies using experimental treatments will proceed as a test of the current rules which is allowed by statute. Contact McNaughton for details.

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**CMER Workplan:** Schuett-Hames has received information from RSAG, UPSAG and ISAG. Other committees still need to submit their information. SAGE information will be incorporated on October 16<sup>th</sup>. CMER will meet on September 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the workplan and to prioritize projects. The workplan will be forwarded to Policy for review and approval in time for consideration at their November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. CMER will then meet on the afternoon of October 16<sup>th</sup> and on October 17<sup>th</sup> to finalize the workplan.

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